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THE
LAWS AND ORDERS,
OF THE
FRIENDLY SOCIETY,

WHO MEET AT THE
House of Mr WILLIAM FORSTER,

In NORTH SHIELDS,

IN THE
COUNTY of NORTHUMBERLAND.

AGREED UPON, March 3d, 1795.

NORTH SHIELDS:

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1795.



ARTICLES &c.

OF THE

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

I. THIS society shall meet on the first Tuesday evening of every month, between the hours of seven and nine : The stewards and clerk to attend within fifteen minutes after seven, or be fined two-pence each ; and to give two hours attendance every meeting night ; and if prevented necessarily from attending, they shall employ a member to act in their room ; for none of

the stewards or landlord, shall at any time give their key to one another, without being fined six-pence for so doing: And every person admitted a member of this society, shall pay five shillings entrance, four-pence for a copy of the articles, and spend two-pence; and at every succeeding meeting, shall pay one shilling to the fund, and spend two-pence; but if the number of members should be reduced to thirty, then four shillings of the entrance money shall be abated, till the number of members shall be sixty-one, the number required.

II. IF any member two years after his entrance, should be rendered incapable of following his business, through sickness, pain, hurt, or infirmity whatsoever, he having no hand in bringing the same upon himself; shall then receive per week as follows, viz: If the fund should be reduced below sixty pounds (exclusive of mournings) five shillings per week, and when there is more in the fund than sixty pounds, six shillings per week, till each sick member has received fifteen pounds; and afterwards only three shillings

shillings per week, during the continuance of his ailment or infirmity.

N. B. If any money shall be lent out of the fund, it shall be reckoned as a part of it, but the mournings are always lessening in their value, and therefore not reckoned a part of the fund.

III. NINE POUNDS shall be paid at the death of each member, who has been such two years, to whom such member has assigned the same by word of mouth or writing, unless said member has already received forty shillings, on account of loss of chest and bedding, by shipwreck, or an enemy, or by the death of his wife, forty shillings being allowed for each, which forty shillings may be received twice, but no oftner by any member, which is to be deducted from the said nine pounds; the Legacy may then happen to be five, seven, or nine pounds.— And the stewards shall enquire of every member seemingly in a dying condition, whom he would choose to have his legacy paid unto, or each steward neglecting so

to do, shall be fined one shilling, if the said member lived within three miles of North-Shields, and did not die suddenly.

IV. THE fund of this society shall never be shut up, so as to deprive any member of either sick money, or legacy : But if the fund should at any time be reduced to thirty pounds, then each member shall pay eighteen-pence per month into the fund for one year, and if the fund should not still exceed thirty pounds, eighteen pence per month must be continued another year, &c. till the fund shall exceed thirty pounds; during which no member shall be obliged to pay one penny per week, as in the following article ; and this society shall by no means be broke up, so long as any there members agree to uphold the same.

V. IF any member should be rendered incapable of following his business, through sickness, hurt, pain, &c. before he has been two years a member (he having no hand in bringing the same upon himself) then each of his brethren shall pay him one penny per week

week (except the members are paying as in the foregoing article) but if there are two or three, &c. in the same predicament, the pennies shall be divided among them equally; and if any of them die, each member shall pay one shilling towards the charge of his funeral, and a shilling into the fund at the funeral of each full member.

VI. IF any member be found to have had any continued ailment on him, when, or before he entered this society, he shall have no benefit from the box for that distemper, ailment, or infirmity; nor for any hurt or harm got by wilful fighting; and it is thought fit by this society, that a surgeon, doctor, or any other person duly qualified, shall inspect into the disease, ailment, or infirmity, of any member receiving weekly money from the fund; and none shall be admitted members of this society, but such as can prove themselves by certificate, (if required) to be healthful, and of a good character, and under forty years of age, and no person who has a pension

pension, or is a member of like society, shall be admitted a member of this society.

VII. ALL entrance money and monthly money, (except the two-pences) and all fines, and shillings at the funerals of full members, shall be put into the society's box, which box is always to have three different locks, the two stewards and landlord or landlady to have each a key; which stewards shall be chosen at the head meeting day every year, from among the members, as they stand on the roll; and whoever refuses to stand steward in their turn, shall be fined two shillings and six-pence: And no liquor shall at any meeting be brought into the club-room, but with the stewards leave; and nothing less than a gallon at once, and the stewards shall mark down every gallon: And no tobacco shall be used at the society's expence.

VIII. THERE shall be one feast yearly, on the first Tuesday of January, to which each member absent or present shall pay one shilling for eating, and six-pence for drinking

ing ; beside their monthly payment : And no part of the fund shall be used for either meat or drink : And no person that is not a member shall be admitted to dinner, or to sit in any meeting of the members : And the old stewards shall deliver up to the new stewards, a full and true account of all their income, and disbursements, for the said society ; and if there has been any misapplication, or any deficiency, they shall be obliged to make it good to the new stewards.

IX. NO land member shall be entitled to any money when sick, &c. until he declares himself upon the box ; and then the stewards shall carry his weekly money to him every week, if he lives within three miles of Shields, or forfeit six-pence to the fund for every neglect, and shall give in their report of him to the society next meeting ; and a sea member shall be under the same regulations, if he falls sick, &c. within three miles of Shields.

X. AND no sea member shall be entitled to

to any money when sick, &c. when abroad, while his wages are going on, and he living at the expence of the ship; but if he is at the expence of sick lodgings, upon producing a certificate from a doctor, the master or others, as they would attest upon oath (if required) what his disorder was, and that he had no hand in bringing it upon himself, and that it was not venereal, and how long he was at the expence of sick lodgings, he shall have per week the same as land members, during the time certified.

XI. IF any member of this society shall be found guilty of any fraud, by doing business, &c. when receiving weekly money from the fund, shall for the first offence forfeit his weeks allowance, and for the second offence, forfeit double his weeks allowance, and for the third offence, be excluded the society. And if any member shall conceal any fraud, committed by any member, shall forfeit half a crown. But the first part of this article does not extend to any disabled, or superannuated member, whom the society have permitted to do what

what he can, on his taking less money weekly than assigned by the articles.

XII. IF any member shall reflect upon another, for receiving sick money out of the fund, shall be fined half a crown. For getting drunk on a sabbath day, one shilling: For striking one another, five shillings: For calling one another bye-names, sixpence: For coming into the club-room without paying all his money that he knows is due, or coming disguised in liquor, six-pence each: For not keeping silence when demanded by a steward, two-pence: For taking God's name in vain, two-pence:— And whoever neglects payment till the third meeting, shall be fined two-pence, the fourth meeting four-pence, the fifth meeting six-pence, and the sixth meeting eight-pence, and whoever neglects to pay up all arrears on the sixth meeting, shall be excluded, and loss the benefit of the club.

XIII. F O R removing obstructions or inconveniences, the major part of the members at any monthly meeting, shall have power

power to make such bye-laws as are fit and requisite, for the conducting the affairs of the said society, and to reverse and alter the same; all which bye-laws, entered in the books of this company, and registered as the other articles, and signed by the major part of the members present, shall be of as much force and efficacy, as if the same were inserted in these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof, the said parties to these presents, have hereunto set their hands, the day and year first above written.

F I N I S.

